



Atty. Dkt. No. 040302-0280

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Shinji ASANO et al.  
Title: HIGH-STRENGTH RACE AND  
METHOD OF PRODUCING THE  
SAME  
Appl. No.: 09/996,597  
Filing Date: 11/30/2001  
Examiner: D. Yee  
Art Unit: 1742

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated February 4, 2005, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Applicant has enclosed with this amendment a Petition for Extension of Time to make this response timely.

Please amend the application as follows: